

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 through 17 are pending. Claims 1-3 and 5-17 have been amended to more particularly claim the invention.

No new matter has been added, and the amended claims are supported by the specification as filed. Thus, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner:

- rejected claims 1 -17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Universal News Services, Limited 1999, "Ambalink Launches Secure Online Shopping in the UK" ("the Ambalink article,")
- rejected claims 9-11 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

As an initial matter, applicants note that the examiner is obligated to provide a detailed explanation for the rejections of all pending claims. In the current office action, the examiner provided only a cursory description of the Ambalink article as it related to claims 1-17 and did not specifically address how the Ambalink article anticipates any of the dependent claims, nor did the examiner address all of the limitations of the independent claims. The MPEP states that a plurality of claims should never be grouped together in a common rejection, unless that rejection is equally applicable to all claims in the group. *See* MPEP 707.07(d).

Claims 1-17

Claims 1 -17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Universal News Services, Limited 1999, "Ambalink Launches Secure Online Shopping in the UK .

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

" An electronic system for managing, processing and automating electronic activity, comprising: a fixed common user interface that includes means, through the use of a plurality of secondary interfaces for gathering and

structuring data, for determining the rights and abilities of users within the system by means of a common data format and operating rule for creating, storing, and transaction of data used in the system; a central clearinghouse for authorizing and authenticating users; and a common market permitting users employing said system to locate propositions of interest and to negotiate and fulfill transactions."

The Ambalink article does not anticipate claim 1 because it fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, "[a]n electronic system ... comprising: a fixed common user interface that includes means, through the use of a plurality of secondary interfaces for gathering and structuring data, for determining the rights and abilities for users within the system by means of a common data format and operating rule for creating, storing, and transaction of data used in the system ...," as required by claim 1. Rather, the Ambalink system broadly discloses Web-based shopping mall that provides users with an electronic wallet system for making payments. (*See* the Ambalink article, p.1, lines 3, 20-21; p. 2, lines 7-15). The Ambalink article provides no details regarding how the system is implemented. Thus, there is no disclosure of, for example, "a plurality of secondary interfaces for gathering and structuring data, for determining the rights and abilities for users within the system by means of a common data format and operating rule for storing, creating, and transaction of data used in the system," as required by claim 1.

Thus, applicant requests that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn, and that claim 1 be allowed. With respect to claims 2-8, which depend from claim 1 and which recite additional features of the invention, applicant requests that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of these claims be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed for the same reasons as identified with respect to claim 1.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite:

"A method implemented by a computer for data formatting and data processing in connection with an activity that is capable of being automated, comprising the steps of the common data format and operating rule successively prompting a user for and receiving from the user, through interactive primary and secondary user/machine interfaces, who/what information relating to the activity, why/how information relating to the activity, and where/when information relating to the activity, recording received discussions relating to the activity, recording agreements between parties, and, in a fulfillment stage, prompting and monitoring fulfillment steps in accordance with said where/when information."

The Ambalink article does not anticipate claim 9 because it fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, "[a] method ... comprising the steps of successively prompting a user for and receiving from the user, through interactive primary and secondary user/machine interfaces, who/what information relating to the activity, why/how information relating to the activity, and where/when information relating to the activity...." Rather, as discussed above in relation to claim 1, the Ambalink system broadly discloses Web-based shopping mall that provides users with an electronic wallet system for making payments. (See the Ambalink article, p.1, lines 3, 20-21; p. 2, lines 7-15). The Ambalink article provides no details regarding how the system is implemented. Thus, there is no disclosure of, for example, "prompting a user for and receiving from the user, through interactive primary and secondary user/machine interfaces, who/what information relating to the activity, why/how information relating to the activity, and where/when information relating to the activity....."

Thus, applicant requests that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 9 be withdrawn, and that claim 9 be allowed. With respect to claims 10-17, which depend from claim 9 and which recite additional features of the invention, applicant requests that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of these claims be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed for the same reasons as identified with respect to claim 9.

Rejections

35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 9-11 and 13-17

Claims 9-11 and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*,

"A method implemented by a computer for data formatting and data processing in connection with an activity that is capable of being automated"

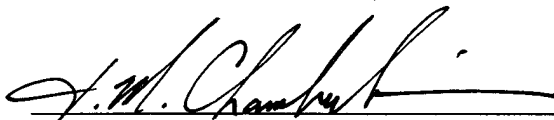
Thus, claim 9 is directed to the implementation of the method by a computer, and as such complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §101. Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection of claim 9 be withdrawn, and that claim 9 be allowed. With respect to claims 10, 11 and 13-17, which depend from claim 9 and which recited additional features of the invention, applicant requests that the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection of these claims be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed for the same reasons as stated for claim 9.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed due with this submission, however, should any fees be required, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any such required fees to deposit account **50-2061**.

Respectfully submitted,

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